

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2695

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 9554

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: AIFLD/ITS PERU GRANT

FOR ARA-LA/MRSD/L

1. AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY OFFICERS RECENTLY DISCUSSED AIFLD/PERU ACTIVITY AND FUTURE PLANS WITH CHARLES WHEELER, AIFLD/BOLIVIA CPD, AND MIKE DONOVAN, AIFLD REGIONAL AUDITOR RESIDENT IN LIMA. POINTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED POSSIBLE NEW PROGRAMS, REPLACEMENT OF DONOVAN, AND POSSIBLE ROLE OF WHEELER IN MONITORING THE PERU/ITS PROGRAM.

2. AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION, THE EMBASSY HAS CONCLUDED THAT EXTREME GOP SENSITIVITY TO FOREIGN, AND ESPECIALLY U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE LABOR SECTOR MILITATES AGAINST ANY SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF THE ITS PROGRAM OR INTRODUCTION AT THIS TIME OF NEW AID-FUNDED PROGRAMS. ALSO, CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS SUCH AS TO CAST DOUBT ON POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS WOULD MAKE TOWARDS STRENGTHENING FREE TRADE UNIONS.

3. WE CONSIDER THAT THE ITS PROGRAM SHOULD CONTINUE IN FY 75-76 AT ROUGHLY CURRENT LEVEL. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT SAID PROGRAM MUST REMAIN CLEARLY UNION-TO-UNION I.E. WITHOUT DIRECT USAID OR AIFLD INVOLVEMENT. SOME MODEST INCREASES MIGHT BE MADE.

TO PROVIDE FOR LIMITED CULTURAL EXCHANGE TYPE VISITS TO THE U.S. AS WELL AS TRAVEL TO REGIONAL ITS CONFERENCES.

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4. ON DONOVAN REPLACEMENT WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT GOP POLITICAL ATTITUDES, ACCENTED BY RECENT GOP TERMINATION OF PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS, MAKE IT ESSENTIAL FOR AIFLD TO TRANSFER REGIONAL AUDITOR POSITION TO ANOTHER COUNTRY WHERE POLITICAL SITUATION IS MORE FAVORABLE. AIFLD CAN MAINTAIN AND COVER THOSE REGIONAL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING PERU BY PERIODIC VISITS OF WHEELER WHO HAS BASIC RESPONSIBILITY AIFLD ITS/PERU PROGRAM.

5. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT DETAILS FY 75-76 AIFLD ITS/PERU GRANT PERU BE WORKED OUT WITH LABATT CREAGAN WHO PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON WEEK OF JANUARY 20.
DEAN

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